

FAIRNESS IN THE FEDERAL COURTS AND LOCAL VOTING BOOTHS

Civil rights are the cornerstone of a free society. That means that our judges must be unbiased, our voting rights must be protected, and every American should be free from discrimination.

Fighting against extremist judges. Senate Democrats have a strong record on judicial nominations, confirming 173 of the 176 judicial nominees brought to the floor during the past three years – more than were confirmed during President Reagan’s entire first term. But Democrats have stood up and fought judicial nominees that were too extreme to fairly represent the American people.

- Janice Rogers Brown. Janice Rogers Brown has consistently used her position as a member of the court to advocate for her personal political beliefs. There are questions regarding her qualifications, her record as an agenda-driven judge, and her legal extremism. Other Republican members of the California Supreme Court have criticized her “poison pen” and her political agenda.
- Priscilla Owen. Justice Owen’s repeated and aggressive attempts to alter the law to suit her personal opinions have drawn sharp criticism, even from her Republican colleagues. In case after case, she has been criticized for rampant judicial activism in cases touching on a wide range of subjects, including age discrimination, medical malpractice, deceptive trade practices, and parental consent.
- Carolyn Kuhl. Throughout her career, Carolyn Kuhl has demonstrated an extreme philosophy that threatens the civil and individual rights of Americans. In case after case, she has been criticized for judicial activism in cases touching on a wide range of subjects, including limiting women’s rights; narrowing the definition of discrimination; and undermining protections for whistleblowers.

Making sure every vote counts. Of one hundred million voters, four to six million Americans went to the polls on Election Day 2000 and for a variety of reasons were denied their right to vote and have their vote counted. Our nation was thrown into turmoil while the Presidential election was litigated for weeks. But even after strong bipartisan election reform was passed, Republicans refuse to provide the necessary funds to make sure that every vote is counted on Election Day. Democrats led the fight for strong election reform, to ensure that every American can vote and every vote is counted. This legislation includes:

- Federal support to replace the punch card machines that led to Florida's infamous "pregnant chads," "hanging chads" and "dimpled chads," and help for states training election workers.
- \$3 billion over three years to help states meet election requirements, train poll workers, provide voter education and administer elections.
- New "requirements that ensure that eligible voters are not denied the right to vote.

Republicans continue to fight real election reform by refusing to provide promised funding.

Republicans have failed to provide over \$800 million in promised funding that our state and local governments nationwide so urgently need in order to make election reform a reality. Democrats support full funding for this legislation.

